

**Welcome & Intro :: HELP!****HELP! - posted by olliewesley, on: 2009/6/20 14:57**

SO it would be awesome if someone would be able to help me with a burning question that I have, I'm really stuck in this and it's causing me a lot of difficulty.

Hebrews 6:5 says, 'in the case of those who have been enlightened (me) and have tasted in the heavenly gift (me) and have been partakers in the Holy Spirit (me) and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and have then fallen away it is impossible again to renew them again to repentance since they have again crucified the Son of God unto themselves'

Please don't just tell me what I want to hear, I need straight up truth, not just 'God loves you brother' I need help in answering this!

I fell away after partaking in miracles and spirit-filled conversion in my own life, I lived everyday to God and loved Him dearly. After a while I fell away into sin deeply, I got into sexual relationships and hard drugs mixed them together, after a year or so of falling away I was suicidal, depressed, anguished, and longing for the Grace....

But the Bible clearly says for me it is impossible. Am I a Judas? Am I a Cain wandering the earth? Am I a goat separated from Christ as I would need a second crucifixion to be brought back to repentance?

Re: HELP! - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2009/6/20 15:13

You can do a search and maybe search on "once saved always saved" and search on the verses, and I know you will find much to read, it's been talked much about here.

What I do want to say to you is, there is hope for you, God is able to save to the uttermost, in the context of that verse I do think it's possible for a man to end up in hell after once knowing God, but as long as you want to come back He will accept you, come in faith and repentance, get on your knees, confess your sins, your rebellion, maybe you were not saved to begin with? Maybe you were and walked away, anyhow you must come to Him. I suggest take time away from everything, fasting, prayer, the Bible, weep and howl for your miseries, if you can't weep ask God to break your hardened heart.

The verse speaks of those that seek to be justified another way than the one they once accepted, a very bad picture is for a believing Christian to go back to Judaism or maybe try get right with God the Islam way.

For such people trying another way than the way of the cross it is impossible to be saved.

But if you are concerned for your soul and your current state is an evidence your heart is not totally hardened. Flee to Him before it is too late.

You can come to Him through the blood of Christ, all of us can only approach Him because of the blood, so go to Him! He awaits you, and come honestly, if you are not honest nothing will happen.

I will remember you in my prayer.

Christian

Re: HELP!, on: 2009/6/20 16:03

Adding to what hmmhmm said, I would like to give further perspective to what you've been through.

If you experienced all you shared above, then two things are clear: you were still young in the Lord, with much renewing of the mind still to be done, and, you were bound to be targeted by the roaring lion who sets himself to bring you down through your flesh. You are not alone in the falling, and as hmmhmm said, there is plenty of hope for your ultimate salvation, if you really are ready, now, to walk in newness of life.

I think many Christians are horrified to realize the depths to which they can sink. Some try to save themselves through

legalism, pride and hypocrisy; others simply sink and don't turn back to God; others like us, do sink, but do turn back to God, and with the memory of our failures tingling in our ears, we determine to do something differently this time, so as to learn from the mistakes we've made.

Of course, some consequences of sin go on for years (such as children), and can never be undone. I think it is here that I began to realise the grace of God to man. I mean, wherever we are when we come to our senses, finding ourselves in a pigpen like the prodigal, was always all our own idea. It was never in our Father's *plan* for us, but, in His love He allowed us to have what we asked for.

Then, we realise that just as He has over-ruled our stupidity, to the extent that we desire to turn back to Him, He also graciously over-rules the whole spread of our failure, provides for us, encourages us, attends to our most minute need, and slowly but thoroughly answers all our latest requests for healing and forgiveness, and shows us how *much* He desires to have fellowship with us, unhindered by self and sin.

Falling away is common, and, I believe that having *chosen* to sin, it can require a more lengthy and determined effort to take back that ground in our lives; but, having taken back that ground, it is less likely we will give it up as easily, ever again.

Do not doubt that God is on your side, if you put yourself back into His hands. He is gentle and kind, and full of compassion, but He is utterly real, and will not be deceived by any double-mindedness on your part. So, when He takes you at your word, and delivers you, make sure you have counted the cost, and are ready to look forward with blinkers (blinders) on, put your hand to the plough and don't look back or long for what you're leaving behind.

You have to be ready to chop up all your idols and make a bonfire with them, and count it good riddance to the hindrance they represent to you personally, so that you can worship God in spirit and truth again, honestly.

It may be a process, but you need to set your heart and mind on getting to the end of it by steady progress, if slow. Keep yourself in the presence of God especially when you are tempted, and especially when you are embarrassed to admit how weak you feel. This is faith, working. God will honour you in it.

Re: HELP! - posted by pernvic, on: 2009/6/20 16:12

Our Father isn't looking for reasons to count us out.

He Loves us !

He longs for us to repent and return to Him.

that is why He says in His word, resist the devil and he will flee, draw near to God and He WILL draw near to you !

Try it, just pour out your heart to Him,

He is full of compassion, kindness and tender mercy. He has been waiting patiently !

Re: HELP! - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2009/6/20 17:28

John Bunyan, the author of Pilgrim's Progress, found himself in your exact position, wrestling with the same verses. What follows are some extracts from His book Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners. I encourage you to read the whole book, you can read it online (<http://www.ccel.org/b/bunyan/abounding/grace.htm>) HERE ...

Now began my heart again to ache and fear I might meet with disappointment at the last, wherefore I began, with all seriousness, to examine my former comfort, and to consider whether one that had sinned as I have done, might with confidence trust upon the faithfulness of God, laid down in those words by which I had been comforted and on which I had leaned myself. But now were brought those sayings to my mind, 'For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance' (Heb. 6.4-6). 'For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries' (Heb. 10.26, 27). Even 'as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright; for ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears' (Heb. 12.16, 17) .

Now was the word of the gospel forced from my soul, so that no promise or encouragement was to be found in the Bible

for me; and now would that saying work upon my spirit to afflict me, 'Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy as other people' (Hos. 9.1). For I saw indeed there was cause of rejoicing for those that held to Jesus; but as for me, I had cut myself off by my transgressions, and left myself neither foot-hold, nor hand-hold, amongst all the stays and props in the precious word of life...

Then that scripture gave me hope, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee' (Heb. 13.5). O Lord, said I, but I have left Thee. Then it answered again, 'But I will not leave thee.' For this I thank God also...

Now as touching this, that Esau sought a place of repentance; thus I thought, first, This was not for the birthright, but for the blessing; this is clear from the apostle, and is distinguished by Esau himself; 'He took away my birthright (that is, for me); and behold, now he hath taken away my blessing' (Gen. 27.36). Secondly, Now, this being thus considered, I came again to the apostle, to see what might be the mind of God, in a New Testament style and sense, concerning Esau's sin; and so far as I could conceive, this was the mind of God, that the birthright signified regeneration, and the blessing the eternal inheritance; for so the apostle seems to hint, 'Lest there be any profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright'; as if he should say, Lest there be any person amongst you that shall cast off all those blessed beginnings of God that at present are upon him, in order to a new birth, lest they become as Esau, even be rejected afterwards, when they would inherit the blessing.

For many there are who, in the day of grace and mercy, despise those things which are indeed the birthright to heaven, who yet, when the deciding day appears, will cry as loud as Esau, 'Lord, Lord, open to us'; but then, as Isaac would not repent, no more will God the Father, but will say, I have blessed these, yea, and they shall be blessed; but as for you, depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity (Gen. 27.33; Luke 13.25-27).

When I had thus considered these scriptures, and found that thus to understand them was not against, but according to other scriptures; this still added further to my encouragement and comfort, and also gave a great blow to that objection, to wit, that the scripture could not agree in the salvation of my soul. And now remained only the hinder part of the tempest, for the thunder was gone beyond me, only some drops did still remain, that now and then would fall upon me; but because my former frights and anguish were very sore and deep, therefore it did oft befall me still, as it befalleth those that have been scared with fire, I thought every voice was Fire, fire; every little touch would hurt my tender conscience.

But one day, as I was passing in the field, and that too with some dashes on my conscience, fearing lest yet all was not right, suddenly this sentence fell upon my soul, Thy righteousness is in heaven; and methought withal, I saw, with the eyes of my soul, Jesus Christ at God's right hand; there, I say, is my righteousness; so that wherever I was, or whatever I was a-doing, God could not say of me, He wants my righteousness, for that was just before Him. I also saw, moreover, that it was not my good frame of heart that made my righteousness better, nor yet my bad frame that made my righteousness worse; for my righteousness was Jesus Christ Himself, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever (Heb. 13.8).

Now did my chains fall off my legs indeed, I was loosed from my affliction and irons, my temptations had fled away; so that, from that time, those dreadful scriptures of God left off to trouble me now; now went I also home rejoicing, for the grace and love of God.

Re: HELP! - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/6/20 17:50

olliewesley,

You are not a judas, you are not a cain, and you are definitely NOT a goat. That is a lie from the enemy, from the pit of hell, to keep you from becoming what Christ wants you to be when you return. If he can keep you in this fog of self-doubt and unbelief, you will remain useless to the Lord but cry out to God and ask HIM what He thinks!

Our God is TRUTH!! If you have confessed your sins and repented, HE IS faithful to forgive. It doesn't say that He is faithful to forgive only once! HE IS faithful to forgive, period!

Some of my story: I was saved and spoke in tongues for 20 years and backslid after my divorce into a lifestyle of alcoholism, one night stands, and smoking yet again (after He delivered me the FIRST time). What I want to say is that none of those things caused my backsliding; the process had begun years before in my mind. So I just went through the motions the last couple of years before the actual decent.

About five years later, I didn't return to the Lord, He called to me & came to get me from the mire. The first couple of years back, I had so much self doubt that it was hard to believe that He really loved me and forgave me but He did.

Jesus told Peter in Luke 22.32, "But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." HCSB

When you return, strengthen your brothers and sisters and tell them what the Great God has done for you! AND what He has done for you, He will do for others! The Lord has now given me a jail ministry with women and I work with one of the local Christian 12 step programs. He has blessed me more now than the first 20 years and I know it's nothing I have done - it's all about Him!

Our God is a Great God and your life is not over. Do not let the enemy lie to you any longer. Get out your Bible and read ALL the other verses that say how much He loves you and forgives you.

My story is exactly why I chose the quote that is below...

God bless you!

Re: HELP! - posted by HeartSong, on: 2009/6/20 18:19

Ezekiel 33:18-19

When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby.

But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby.

Re: - posted by olliewesley, on: 2009/6/20 18:31

that sounds like your confirming my struggle, is that?

Re: HELP! - posted by trxx (), on: 2009/6/20 18:38

Understand that I do not have any attitude when I ask this, "Why do you ask mankind a question that only God can answer?" Do not look to any man but to God alone. I do not think it wise to look for a Scripture in this particular case to document your salvation. Ask God and He may use a particular Scripture to show you the truth in this but it would be unwise to base your salvation on a Scripture reference if God Himself has not given it to you. In short, ask Him the question that you are asking and He will make known to you the truth.

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2009/6/20 18:53

Quote:

-----that sounds like your confirming my struggle, is that?

Ezekiel 33:18-19

When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby.

But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby.

Re: - posted by olliewesley, on: 2009/6/20 18:58

ok sorry i see what you meant. Sorry just a struggle iv been asking God for like three months to meet with me, just feel a lone, like he turned away,

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2009/6/20 19:48

Quote:

----- . . . just feel alone, like he turned away,

He has not turned away from you - you have turned away from Him. Do not let the enemy trick you into thinking that the Lord is not right there with you - for He was with you even when you had turned away. He is right beside you waiting for your return - but just as at the beginning, you must believe that He is there.

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2009/6/20 20:03

I Bless Your Name

Words and Music by Elizabeth Goodine

In prisoners' chains
With bleeding stripes
Paul and Silas prayed that night
And in their pain began to sing
Their chains were loosed
And they were free

I bless Your Name
I bless Your Name
I give You honor, give You praise
You are the Life, the Truth, the Way
I bless Your Name
I bless Your Name

Some midnight hour
If you should find
You're in a prison in your mind
Reach out and praise
Defy those chains
And they will fall
In Jesus' Name

We bless Your Name
We bless Your Name
We give You honor, give You praise
You are the Life, the Truth, the Way
We bless Your Name
We bless Your Name

You are the Life, the Truth, the Way
We bless Your Name
We bless Your Name

Re: HELP! - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2009/6/21 3:55

I want to recomend two books that might help you further, they have been an encouragement to me when i have failed, and just as the apostle peter denied the Lord three times and sinned, so can we fall. Your fall is not as great as the one the pillar of the church had, but even him God could restore. So there is hope for all christians that sin. Jesus prayed that after you have fallen that he would not lose his faith, he did not pray he should not fall, nor never sin, bu8t after he had repented he would not lose his faith.

Faith is the thing that overcomes, sin, the world and self.... satan and all his temptations and all trials can be overcome by faith.

these are two very short books that can be read in one sitting.

(http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/book_window.php?bookthe_purpose_of_failure) Purpose of Failure by Zac Poonen

(http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/book_window.php?booksecrets_of_victory) Secrets of Victory by Zac Poonen

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2009/6/21 3:57

here is an excerpt from one of the books,

Here we read of Jesus warning Peter of a danger that lay ahead of him. He told him "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

We all know that Peter denied the Lord three times that very night. In verse 34, we read that Jesus told Peter, "I say to you, Peter, the cock will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

What I want to share with you this morning is God's purpose in man's failure. This will encourage all of us who feel frustrated and discouraged because of our failures to have hope.

The question first of all is : Does God allow failure? Does He permit it? Is there a purpose in failure? Or is failure something that has no purpose at all in God's perfect will and something that God cannot use to further his purposes!

When we read this passage, we see that God did not prevent Peter from denying Him. Why didn't Jesus say "Simon I have prayed for you that you will not deny Me even once." Why did the Lord pray only that Peter's faith may not fail, even if Peter himself fell?? Isn't it interesting that the Lord did not pray that Peter might not fall?

Some of us would like the Lord to pray for us that we might never fall. We would like the Lord to say to us "My son, my daughter, I have prayed for you that you will never fall and never fail." But interestingly enough, our Lord doesn't pray such a prayer for us.

What did Jesus pray for Simon? That when Satan tempted him, his faith would not fail. He didn't pray that Peter should not fall in temptation, but that when he did fall, his faith in God's perfect love would not fail him - so that even when Peter reached the bottom of the pit of failure, he would confess, "God still loves me".

That is faith - and that is the confession we must always have on our lips and in our hearts - no matter how low we may have sunk or fallen - that God still loves us, JUST AS WE ARE.

That was the confession of the prodigal son. When he had reached so low that he could not go any lower, he still believed that his father loved him. I can't imagine anyone reaching any lower than the prodigal son had reached - eating what the pigs eat. That boy was at rock-bottom. But when he reached rock-bottom, he remembered one thing: That his father still loved him. Otherwise he would never have returned home. Supposing he'd heard that his father had died and that his elder brother was now running the house, do you think he would have come back home? No. He knew what his elder brother was like. And knowing that, he would never have come back. He came back only because he knew that his father loved him.

There are sinners who never come to some churches because they sense that the pastor or elders there are like that elder brother in the parable. You can't blame those sinners then for not coming. If however the elders of a church are like that father, then the worst of sinners will come to that church seeking salvation, just like they came to Jesus. Our church must have such an image, that the worst of sinners feel free to come to us. If Jesus is really in our midst, the worst of sinners will definitely come and find salvation in our midst.

There's hope for all who've failed thoroughly, who've made a mess of their lives, and who've reached rock bottom. From there the Lord can pick you up and take you to the heights of glory. His prayer for us is that our faith in God's love should not fail at any time.

If you don't need this message today, dear brother and sister, you'll certainly need it one day in the future - when you hit rock bottom. Remember one thing in that day: that God still loves you, no matter where you are, or how low you have

fallen. May your faith in God's love not fail in that hour.

Faith is basically believing that God still loves us. He doesn't love our sin, He doesn't want us to continue in our sin. He's like a father who sees his child's diseases and hates those diseases, but loves his child. Think of a mother who sees her child full of leprosy or tuberculosis. That mother loves her child so much, but hates those diseases with all her heart. God loves sinners but He hates their sin.

We see God's love for sinners and His hatred of sin on Calvary's cross. His love for sinners is seen in that He allowed Jesus to die on the cross for us. His hatred of sin is seen in His turning His face away from Jesus when Jesus bore the sin of the world on the cross.

People sometimes ask how a God of love can send people to Hell. What is Hell like? Hell is a place that God has forsaken completely – a place where God cannot be found. This earth has not been forsaken by God. That's why there's still so much of goodness and beauty on this earth. Look at the beauty of creation, for example. Look at the decency and goodness there is in many human beings. Demons would like to possess ALL human beings, but they're unable to, because God has put a restraining wall around people, so that demons can't do what they like. It is God's mercy also that gives man health, prosperity and many other comforts. All these blessings are bestowed by God on both good and evil people. All this proves that God has not forsaken this world. But Hell is not like that. In Hell there is no mercy at all – because Hell is a truly God-forsaken place.

There is goodness in many unconverted people in this world, because the influences of God are still over them. But once they go to Hell, those very same people will become as evil as the devil himself – because the mercy of God will no longer be over their lives.

In Hell, people will experience for the first time what it is like to be totally forsaken by God. That was what Jesus experienced on the cross. Jesus experienced Hell on the cross for those three hours of darkness, when God actually forsook Him. There we see how much God hates sin.

So what is the answer? Can a God of love send people to Hell? The answer to that lies in the answer to this other question: Could a God of love allow His own Son to face Hell on the cross, when the sin of the world was upon Him? If He could do that, He can send people to Hell too. A God of love will turn His face away from those who continue in sin, who say to God, "I am not going to listen to you. I have chosen my own way and I will continue along it forever."

The Bible says in Proverbs 29:1 (paraphrased) "A man who is corrected many times and refuses to accept correction will one day suddenly be destroyed and he will not have another chance". If a man keeps on refusing God's loving invitations, he is in real danger.

Now I don't want any of you over-sensitive brothers and sisters to feel condemned hearing that – because that verse was not written for those who fall into sin, but to warn those who love to sin and who want to continue in it. It was not written for those who try to live in purity but keep falling. It was written for rebels, who defy God and want to keep on sinning.

How can you know whether you are a rebel? That's very easy to find out. Just ask yourself whether you have a desire to repent and to turn back to God? If there's even the slightest desire within you to turn to God and to love Him, then that proves that the Holy Spirit is still working in your life and that God is seeking to draw you to Himself. You may be a failure, but you're not a rebel. There's a vast difference between one who is failing and one who is rebelling.

It was with a purpose that God allowed Peter to fail. That purpose was to sift Peter. What Satan really wanted was to destroy Peter altogether, but God would not allow him to do that. God does not allow us to be tested or tried beyond our ability. So Satan was allowed to sift Peter. As a result of his failure, Peter was cleansed of a whole lot of chaff in his life.

Re: - posted by olliewesley, on: 2009/6/21 13:07

thanks, very encouraging.....:)

Re: - posted by olliewesley, on: 2009/6/21 13:08

THanks i will look at these books. I really like Zac poonen, thanks for the encouragement

Re: HELP! - posted by darthvieder, on: 2009/7/11 13:10

interesting.. im going to check this one out.. thanks a lot

(<http://simulationassurancevie.com/>) assurance vie

Re: - posted by poet (), on: 2009/7/11 16:50

Tozer made a great statement in a sermon about Hebrews 10:26 concerning this delimma.

He basically said the scripture is true but you cant count out the Prodigal Son scripture, so there needs to be ballance th ere.

I honestly believe it is impossible with us, but not with God, and IF God is calling you home then it would be a good time to receive his mercy.

Re: HELP! - posted by Swinneyg, on: 2009/7/11 17:39

Dear olliewesley,

I went through a similar struggle a few years ago. Several people tried to reassure me that the Lord would not reject me , but I was not able to receive it. I knew I had willfully practiced sin after knowing the truth. It was a terrifying, agonizing time.

In time, I spoke to a very godly man who told me that if the Holy Spirit had left me, I would not be experiencing conviction of sin. This made sense to me and I started to feel some hope. In addition, I came to a decision in my own heart by asking, and then answering this question: What if I were to know that from this moment on, that no matter what I did, I would have no chance of spending eternity with the Lord? Would I go back into the world, or would I still want to serve Him?

I determined that even if my ultimate destiny was eternal separation from the Lord, I would rather serve Him with the one life I have, than to live in all the indulgences of the world. I would trust in His ultimate goodness, knowing that whatever He determines about my fate will be completely righteous. Putting the matter back in His control has given me peace.

And just yesterday I found the following in an article by Jacob Prasch:

"Sometimes people go astray. Sometimes believers fall away. Sometimes young believers backslide. Sometimes, in times of crisis, they wrongly feel that the Lord has abandoned them and they wander off. But the Good Shepherd comes after them. He does not want to lose any. Jesus said, "My sheep will hear My voice" (John 10:27).

What a renewed hope in my heart! It literally brought tears to my eyes to read those words. If the sheep had not wandered off, there would be no reason for the Good Shepherd to go get him. Of course! Dear Jesus, You ARE the Good Shepherd who goes after His sheep, and I heard Your voice when You came to get me -- thank you, thank you, thank you!

There is a tension in the Scriptures. Peter was restored, Judas was not. David was restored, Saul was not. There are some things that are for the Lord alone to decide as he knows each of our hearts. I would strongly encourage you to walk with Him, fully trusting in all of His goodness. He is unquestionably worthy of it.